



**EXHIBIT B**

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Please cancel claims 1-24 without prejudice.

25. (Amended) A gas heating device, comprising at least one chamber for containing gas having a wall coated with fissile material on a front face thereof, and means for [exposing] cooling the wall of said chamber from a rear face thereof, whereby exposure of the fissile material to a neutron flux [to induce] induces fission and the release of fission fragments into the chamber.

26. (Amended) A device according to claim 25, wherein the at least one chamber and the fissile material coating [and the means for exposing to a neutron flux] are arranged to induce fission in critical conditions.

40. (Amended) A device according to claim 39, wherein a molten metal is used as [a] said cooling medium.

45. (Amended) A device according to claim 43, wherein the wall is [a] coated with a gas-tight layer on a rear face thereof with respect to the chamber and the fissile material coating.

Please cancel claim 46 without prejudice.

47. (Amended) A device according to claim [46] 25, wherein the means for cooling the chamber wall include a molten metal [is] used as a cooling medium.

49. (Amended) A space engine comprising a gas heating device [according] and means for expelling the heated gas into space to generate thrust, wherein the gas heating device comprises at least one chamber for containing gas having a wall coated with fissile material on a front face thereof and means for [exposing] cooling the wall of said chamber from a rear face thereof, whereby exposure of the fissile material to a neutron flux [to induce] induces fission and the release of fission fragments into the chamber.

52. (Amended) A space engine according to claim 49, wherein the at least one chamber and the fissile material coating [and the means for exposing to a neutron flux] are arranged to induce fission in critical conditions.

65. (Amended) A space engine according to claim 64, wherein a molten metal is used as [a] said cooling medium.

70. (Amended) A space engine according to claim 68, wherein the wall is [a] coated with a gas-tight layer on a rear face thereof with respect to the chamber and the fissile material coating.

Please cancel claim 71 without prejudice.

72. (Amended) A space engine according to claim [71] 49, wherein the means for cooling the chamber wall include a molten metal [is] used as a cooling medium.